News-item captioned 'Spy satellites on the prowl'

2337. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to report published in the 'Statesman' of 7th June, 1995 under the caption, "Spy satellites on the prowl";

(b) if so, what are the facts and details in this regasd; and

(c) what steps Government have so far taken or propose to take for the safety and security of our nuclear installations and military establishments from spy satellites?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (c) The entire matter of satellite based surveillance is sensitive and relates to vital operational aspects of War. Disclosing detals with regard to the capabilities in this field will not be in the interest of National Secruity.

Alarming Increase in Population

2338. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that population of India is growing at an alarming rate of 2.1 per cent a year;

(b) if so, what steps Government proposes to check this growth in the country particularly in the State of Punjab;

(c) what is the percentage of the people to adopt family planning in the country;

(d) whater Government proposes to set up women cell at the Block level to encourage family planning amongst the women in the country; and

(c) if so, details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) According to the Sample Registration System figures of 1993, the growth rate was 1.94.

(b) An Action Plan formulated in consultation with the State Governments and Union Territories is under implementation. Its features include improving the quality and outreach of services, promotion of spacing methods, among younger age couples, special focus on 90 lagging districts involving voluntary and non-governmental organisations to promote community participation and strengthening of interventions to promote maternal and child health care.

(c) The contraceptive prevalance rate is 45.8% amongst the eligible couples as on 31.3.1995.

(d) and (e) Mahila Swasthya Sangh (MSS) Scheme was launched in 1990-91 for involving women, at the village level to provide support to achieve the goals of the programme.

Promotion of footwear industry

2339. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a vast scope to promote footwear industry in the country;

(b) if so, the possibility explored by Government in the matter; and

(c) the details of proposal mooted for this prupose for coming years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SMT. KRISHNA SAHI) (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) For the integrated development of leather industry, a UNDP-assisted National Leather Development Programme is currently

being implemented by the Government through selected institutions in the country. One of the main objectives of the Programme is improvement of footwear sector. Some of the major achievements in footwear sector under this Programme have been as follows:—

(i) Human Resource Develpment:

—Upgrade footwear technology training courses have been conducted in different institutions.

—Three Footwear Training Operatives centres have been established.

—Post-graduate courses in footwear technology have been conducted in Footwear Design & Development Institute, Noida and another such courses are continuing at Central Leather Research Institute, Madras.

—Management training courses for footwear industry have been conducted at Footwear Design & Development Institute, Noida.

—Footwear design and pattern making courses have been conducted at FDDI, Noida and the other at CLRI, Madras.

—Artisan upgradation projects have been undertaken at Ambala (Haryana), Kalyani (West Bengal) and Jaipur (Rajasthan).

Product Development:

Central Leather Research Institute has established computer aided design services for footwear, established a standardised foot measurement and last system. The Footwear Design and Development Institute, Noida has Eastablished computer aided design services for footwear at Noida and Madras. The Council for Leather Exports, Madras has done substantive work in range building in footwear for export purposes.

(iii) Research & Development:

The Central Leather Research Institute, Madras has upgraded technology with respect to split leather, harness leather processing, chemicals for footwear and footwear testing.

(iv) Support Services.:

The Prototype Development and Training Centre, Madras has upgraded selected machines and developed prototypes of selected sole-making machines.

II Sub-Centresfor training have also been set up in the shoe making areas like Kanpur, Ambur, etc. To increase the availability of trained man-power for footwear industry, Central Footwear Training Centres at Madras and Agra have been modernised under the National Leather Development Porgramme. In addition, two more CFTCs, one at Calcutta and another at Bombay are being set up with the assistance of Government of India towards building and machinery. CFTC, Calcutta has already started short-term training courses.

Effect of Industrial Policy Resolution, 1956

2340. DR. SHRIKANT RAMACHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the exact status of the Industrial Policy Resolution of 1956 in view of the Policy of Liberalisation;

(b) whether the earlier one looses its effect when a new Industrial Policy is introduced; and

(c) if not, how the contradiction is resolved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SMT. KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (c) The objectives of the New Industrial Policy announced by the Government on 24th July, 1991 are to build on the gains already made, correct the distortions or weaknesses that may have crept in maintain a sustained growth in productivity and gainful employment and attain international competitiveness.